



Department of Energy
Nevada Operations Office
P.O. Box 14100
Las Vegas, NV 89114

405442

February 7,

Bikini

FEB 10 1978

PASO ROUTING SLIP

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PROJECT ENGINEER				
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REMARKS:				

Mr. Oscar de Brum
District Administrator
Marshall Islands District
Trust Territory of the
Pacific Islands
Majuro, Marshall Islands 96960

Dear Oscar,

Thank you for your letter of January 16 regarding the copra analyses. I have not yet heard from Charles Domnick, but I assume that I may expect a letter from him soon.

Dr. Robison tells me that he would find it interesting to analyze Bikini copra, oil and cake prepared in the traditional fashion. However, this would not be an adequate substitute for the analyses we propose to do of oil and cake from Bikini copra processed in the Tobolar Plant. Having observed the process in that plant on my last visit with you I am confident that there is no reason for concern regarding possible contamination of the plant. If we can arrange to use a "shut down" time long enough to permit a few hours of clean up, I think we can assure that no Bikini residue will be introduced into the later production of the plant. Furthermore, the very low levels of radiation that we anticipate in the Bikini copra, further diluted in the next batch going through the plant, should be no cause for concern. I should be pleased to discuss this further with Charles or other authorities on my next Majuro visit.

I have delayed answering your question about the aerial survey of the Northern Marshalls until I might myself have a better understanding of our prospective schedule. At this time, the best I can say is that the Navy is actively working on a plan for early initiation of the survey.

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Mr. Oscar de Brum

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The first move will be to obtain aerial photos of all of the places that are to be surveyed. This will likely be done with a specially equipped aircraft which we will bring to Kwajalein, to be based there for about four weeks. The radiological survey could then start about six weeks later. What we do not now know is how soon we will be able to start the photographic work, but I shall be in Washington next week discussing that with the Navy.

The presence of a special aircraft at Kwajalein and the photo missions of a number of atolls and islands is not likely to go unnoticed by the public and the press. Therefore, I feel that we should develop a press release and a notification to the people of the affected islands explaining frankly and completely what our plans are. I am sure that we may expect Carmen's help with that.

You will hear from me again soon after my Washington trip. With best regards and yokwe.

Sincerely,


Roger Ray, Assistant
for Pacific Operations

cc: High Commissioner A. Winkle
TTPI, Saipan, Mariana Islands
Charles Domnick, Tobolar
Processing Plant, Majuro
bcc: W. J. Stanley, Dir., PASO 